

NOTES

HEALTHY
PEOPLE
2010
GOAL:
90% of all women
will receive
early and
adequate
prenatal care.

STATEWIDE:
From 1995 to
1999, there has
been a 5.3%
improvement in
the percent of
women who
receive prenatal
care beginning in
their first
trimester of
pregnancy,
78.3% vs.
83.6%.¹

RELATED INDICATORS:

- Substance-exposed Infants
- Low Birth Weight
- Infant Mortality
- Immunizations
- Birth to Teens
- Developmental Disabilities

Indicator

Infants born to women who received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester

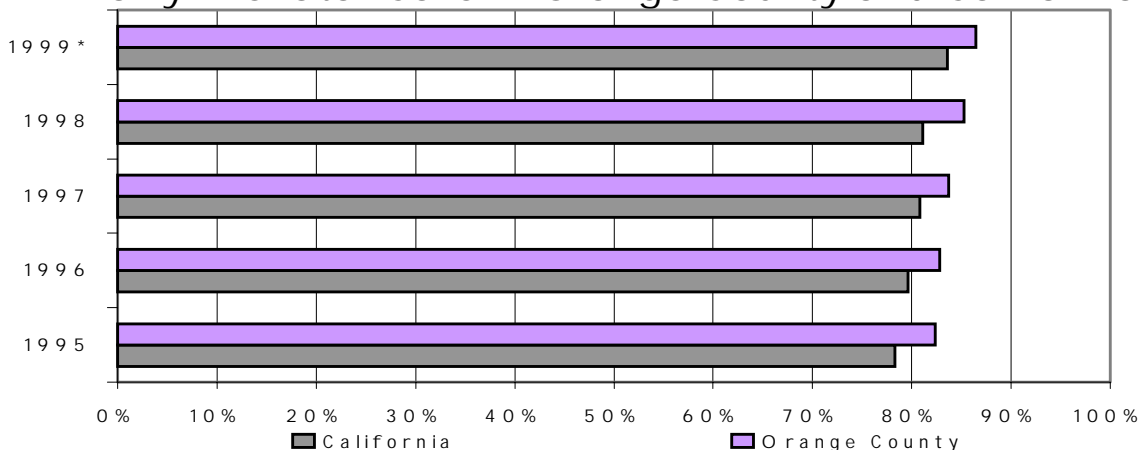
Definition

Early prenatal care refers to the number and percent of infants born to women whose prenatal care began during the first trimester (the first three months) of pregnancy.

Findings

Preliminary 1999 data indicates that 86.5% of Orange County mothers received prenatal care beginning in their first trimester. Orange County remains slightly above the state average in overall births to women who received early prenatal care, 86.5% vs. 83.6% in California.

Percent of Births that Received
Early Prenatal Care in Orange County and California



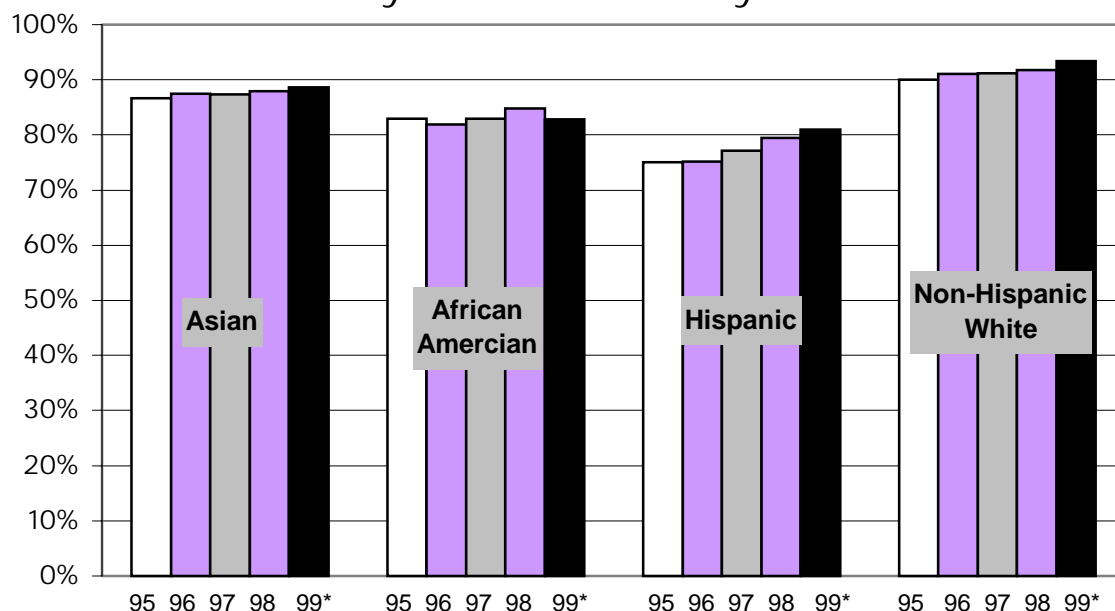
*Based on preliminary 1999 data

Trends

The number of Orange County births receiving early prenatal care continues to increase. Between 1995 and 1999, there was a 4.1% increase (82.4% to 86.5%) in women receiving prenatal care beginning in their first trimester. Yet, there still remains 13.5% of women receiving late or no care at all throughout their pregnancy. All ethnic groups demonstrated an increase in receiving early prenatal care, with Hispanic mothers having the greatest increase from 75.1% in 1995 to 81% in 1999. However, they still exhibit the lowest rate of any group. African American mothers were receiving early prenatal care at about the same rate as compared to 1995, 83.0%. The rate for Asian mothers increased from 86.7% in 1995 to 88.6% in 1999. For Non-Hispanic White mothers, the percentages receiving early prenatal care increased slightly from 90% in 1995 to 93.4% in 1999.

EARLY PRENATAL CARE

Percent of Early Prenatal Care by Race and Ethnicity



*Based on preliminary 1999 data

Summary

Receiving early and on-going prenatal care increases the chances of having a healthy, full-term, normal weight baby. The benefits are increased most for mothers at risk of poor birth outcomes, such as teenage mothers and mothers living in poverty. Infant mortality rates also drop due to improved rates of timely prenatal care and advances in neonatal intensive care. Unequal access to prenatal health care is demonstrated by the disparity in the rate at which Asian, African American, and Hispanic mothers do not receive prenatal care. Education and poverty both play a role in affecting which mothers receive prenatal care as does a lack of health insurance coverage.

Implications

Early prenatal care is a cost-effective way to reduce the health care costs associated with neonatal intensive care services for low-birth weight babies. Early prenatal care improves the likelihood of good maternal and infant health. It also provides an effective way for health care providers to prevent, detect and treat maternal and fetal medical problems.³ Early prenatal care increases the opportunity for mothers to improve their health habits and for those habits to be monitored during the pregnancy by health care professionals, which can increase overall health outcomes for infants. Failure to obtain prenatal care may reflect a mother's indifference to her pregnancy, a lack of information, or a lack of availability to health care.⁴ Any of these situations is a cause for concern and should be addressed.

NOTES



SEE
SUPPLEMENTAL
TABLES FOR
ADDITIONAL
DATA

NATIONWIDE:
In 1999, 83.2% of
pregnant women
received prenatal
care beginning in
their first trimester
of pregnancy.²

DATA SOURCE:
Orange County
Health Care
Agency

NOTES:
¹California
Department of
Health Services,
Maternal and Child
Health Branch
²National Vital
Statistics Reports
³Orange County
Community
Indicators, 1999
⁴The Right Start
City Trends:
Conditions of
Babies and Their
Families in
America's Largest
Cities (1990-1998)

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: GOOD HEALTH

Indicator

Early Prenatal Care

Number and Percent of Infants by Prenatal Care and Race and Ethnicity

Trimester		Total	%	Non-Hispanic White	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Asian	%	Other*	%
1 9 9 4	First Trimester	40,157	80.5%	17,852	89.2%	584	79.0%	16,676	71.7%	4,646	86.6%	399	79.0%
	Second Trimester	7,570	15.2	1,686	8.4	113	15.3	5,143	22.1	563	10.5	65	12.9
	Third Trimester	1,501	3.0	303	1.5	23	3.1	1,041	4.5	118	2.2	16	3.2
	No Prenatal Care	442	0.9	126	0.6	13	1.8	281	1.2	17	0.3	5	1.0
	Unknown Care	210	0.4	43	0.2	6	0.8	120	0.5	21	0.4	20	4.0
	Total	49,880	100%	20,010	100%	739	100%	23,261	100%	5,365	100%	505	100%
1 9 9 5	First Trimester	39,717	82.4%	16,552	90.0%	644	83.0%	17,279	75.1%	4,609	86.7%	633	85.2%
	Second Trimester	6,609	13.7	1,438	7.7	103	13.2	4,450	19.4	550	10.4	68	9.2
	Third Trimester	1,315	2.7	269	1.5	16	2.1	915	4.0	94	1.8	21	2.8
	No Prenatal Care	336	0.7	83	0.5	6	0.8	226	1.0	16	0.1	5	0.6
	Unknown Care	246	0.5	56	0.3	7	0.9	121	0.5	46	1.0	16	2.2
	Total	48,223	100%	18,398	100%	776	100%	22,991	100%	5,315	100%	743	100%
1 9 9 6	First Trimester	39,584	82.8%	16,165	91.1%	659	81.9%	17,296	75.2%	4,662	87.5%	802	84.7%
	Second Trimester	6,507	13.5	1,252	7.0	112	13.9	4,506	19.5	530	10.0%	107	11.3
	Third Trimester	1,198	2.5	208	1.2	24	3.0	866	3.8	79	1.5	21	2.2
	No Prenatal Care	319	0.7	67	0.4	7	0.8	221	1.0	20	0.3	4	0.4
	Unknown Care	217	0.5	57	0.3	3	0.4	109	0.5	35	0.7	13	1.4
	Total	47,825	100%	17,749	100%	805	100%	22,998	100%	5,326	100%	947	100%
1 9 9 7	First Trimester	39,461	83.7%	15,791	91.2%	568	82.8%	17,600	77.1%	4,807	87.4%	695	84.8%
	Second Trimester	6,006	12.7	1,195	6.9	91	13.3	4,108	18.0	528	9.6	84	10.2
	Third Trimester	1,137	2.4	192	1.1	19	2.8	798	3.5	113	2.1	15	1.8
	No Prenatal Care	290	0.6	67	0.4	5	0.7	193	0.8	21	0.4	4	0.5
	Unknown Care	238	0.5	67	0.4	3	0.4	117	0.5	29	0.5	22	2.7
	Total	47,132	100%	17,312	100%	686	100%	22,816	100%	5,498	100%	820	100%

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: GOOD HEALTH

Number and Percent of Infants by Prenatal Care and Race and Ethnicity (cont'd.)

Trimester		Total	%	Non-Hispanic White	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Asian	%	Other*	%
1 9 9 8 ¹	First Trimester	39,376	85.3%	16,122	91.8%	540	84.8%	17,737	79.5%	4,456	87.9%	521	85.5%
	Second Trimester	5,324	11.5	1,088	6.2	69	10.8	3,618	16.2	497	9.8	52	8.5
	Third Trimester	961	2.1	171	1.0	15	2.4	690	3.1	71	1.4	14	2.3
	No Prenatal Care	241	0.6	63	0.4	11	1.7	146	0.7	16	0.3	5	0.8
	Unknown Care	284	0.5	121	0.6	2	0.3	114	0.5	30	0.6	17	2.8
	Total	46,186	100%	17,565	100%	637	100%	22,305	100%	5,070	100%	609	100%
1 9 9 9 ^{**}	First Trimester	40,251	86.5%	15,686	93.4%	519	82.8%	18,441	81.0%	5,024	88.6%	581	89.1%
	Second Trimester	4,921	10.6	878	5.2	80	12.8	3,412	15.0	501	8.8	50	7.7
	Third Trimester	960	2.1	139	0.8	18	2.9	687	3.0	113	2.0	3	0.5
	No Prenatal Care	169	0.4	42	0.3	5	0.8	102	0.4	16	0.3	4	0.6
	Unknown Care	212	0.5	53	0.3	5	0.8	124	0.5	16	0.3	14	2.1
	Total	46,513	100%	16,798	100%	627	100%	22,766	100%	5,670	100%	652	100%

*Beginning in 1995, the "Other" Race and Ethnicity category expanded to include "American Indians." One should use caution when comparing this data with previous years.

Please note that because of rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

**1999 data based on preliminary file.

¹1997 and 1998 data updated by Orange County Health Care Agency/ Epidemiology and Disease Control.

Source: Orange County Health Care Agency/ Epidemiology and Disease Control.